

# Oxfam - Diamond Valley Newsletter



March 2009 Web: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dvoxfam>  
Email: [AHIE.Stewart@bigpond.com](mailto:AHIE.Stewart@bigpond.com)

**Next Oxfam-Diamond Valley  
Meeting**  
**7.30pm Friday March 20th,  
Nillumbik Living and Learning  
Centre, 739 Main Rd Eltham.**

## COMBINED GROUPS MEETING

### Close The Gap?

**Spread the word:** Please bring friends and family members to the special combined **Oxfam** meeting with members of the **Micah Social Justice Group** and **Nillumbik Reconciliation Group** and **Eltham Amnesty** on **Friday March 20th N.B. 7.30pm**, at **Eltham Living and Learning Centre**.

Representatives of the Nillumbik Reconciliation Group, Oxfam-D.V. and Micah Social Justice group have met twice to explore the Labour government initiative and Victorian indigenous programmes in order to plan for a meeting with Jenny Macklin on the progress of the 'Close the Gap' initiative. They have requested a public meeting with Jenny at the Community Reception Centre, and have organized the combined meeting.

**Speaker 1: Vicki Clark, Coordinator** of the **Aboriginal Catholic Ministry**, will talk about the Church's programmes designed to help 'Close The Gap' and about the issues facing Aboriginals such as health, education, housing, life expectancy etc. Her CV is below.

**Speaker 2: Tom Schauble, Victorian Campaigns Coordinator, Oxfam**, will talk about Oxfam's 'Close The Gap' programme, and comment on State and Federal

government programmes introduced under this banner. Are their goals realistic?

**Question time** will follow.

**Tea and coffee.**

**Oxfam business** last.

### VICKI WALKER

**Co-ordinator, Aboriginal Catholic  
Ministry, Melbourne**

Vicki supports the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities of Victoria by maintaining a Centre that is a place of welcome and of spiritual healing, while working strongly as an advocate for justice for her people within the Catholic Church and in the wider community.

She is a member of Reconciliation Victoria, founding trustee of the Opening the Doors Foundation, Darebin City Council Aboriginal Community Council, and has been appointed to the Mary MacKillop Foundation, as well as to numerous Church and community organisations.

Vicki is a descendant of the Mutthi Mutthi tribe of southwest NSW. As an active stakeholder representing the affiliated Aboriginal Tribal Groups (Muthi Muthi), she participated in the Commonwealth and State Government consultations that formulated the current Willandra Lakes World Heritage Property Plan of Management.

Having been influential in the formation and operations of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC), Vicki knows well the issues that surround Australian Indigenous communities in urban, rural and remote communities throughout Australia.

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In 1994, the *Herald Sun Newspaper* included Vicki in its list of "Great Victorians" for her leadership and service to the community, and in 1998 she won the *Philia Award for Individual Initiative* in this field. On Australia Day, 1999, the City of Darebin recognised her work in "Reconciliation through Education" with a *Community Event Award*, and in May 2001 she was listed on the Centenary of Federation Honour Roll of "Women Shaping the Nation".

Vicki has attended Human Rights and Women's Conferences in Australia and abroad and has strong links with the First Peoples of USA and Canada.

Her great interest in Indigenous art was shown as curator of two travelling art exhibitions: "Invisible No More" (1997) and "Dreaming in the City" (1999-2000, 2004), which travelled throughout Victoria and nationally.

## Walk Against Want – Eastern Suburbs

The 2009 Eastern Suburbs Walk Against Want will be held on **Sunday May 3**, starting and finishing at the **St John Ambulance Hall in Elgar Park, Box Hill North** (Mel. 47 B4).

**Start:** 9am - 1pm, and walk or run 6, 12 or 17 km, or cycle 12, 17 or 34km. The route follows the delightful Koonung Trail through restored bush and parklands and is wheelchair friendly. Free drinks, fruit and biscuits en route, free sausage sizzle at the end, plus musical entertainment all day. The longer route this year will require more marshals, so if you can help, or would like to walk, please call Barbara on (03)9720 1703 or email Noelene: [digger@netspace.net.au](mailto:digger@netspace.net.au)

## Oxfam Trailwalker

### Friday March 27th-Sunday 29th.

You can still volunteer, as the event needs **over 800 staff**. There are role descriptions and a volunteer form on the Trailwalker web site: [www.oxfam.org.au/trailwalker](http://www.oxfam.org.au/trailwalker)

## The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Global Gourmet Fair

will be held on **Sunday 22 March from 10.30am till 4.00pm**, at **12 Batman St West Melbourne**.

We're hoping this year will be bigger and better than ever as we are now part of the **Melbourne Food and Wine Festival** and sponsored by the **City of Melbourne**.

The day will be packed with global food, fresh produce, craft stalls and activities for the whole family, with exciting feature music performances from Mick Thomas with Shackleton, The Joelenes, Dan Sultan and Sol Nation plus so much more!

The Global Gourmet Fair is one of the largest fundraisers the Centre holds and will provide important financial support to the ASRC's Human Rights Programs. As Kon explains, "for every \$1 raised the ASRC is able to generate \$20 worth of assistance." The ASRC is the busiest it has ever been but donations are the lowest they have been in 5 years. It is important opportunity to show your support and become involved!

### What can you do?

- Encourage as many of your friends, family, neighbours to come along
- Help promote the event – posters in local cafes, viral email to contacts
- Distribute flyers and posters in the local area – particularly around Collingwood, Fitzroy, Carlton, Clifton Hill, CBD and North Melbourne.

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- Provide crafts, plants, books, CDs or bric & brac to sell at the stalls?
- Bring cakes, bikkies, slices and sweets. Last year we did lots of cupcakes which were enormously successful. Please email Pamela at [pcurr@internode.on.net](mailto:pcurr@internode.on.net)
- Help set up on the day?
- Assist in the preparation of the food?
- Volunteer at one of the stalls?
- Be a marshall to hand out information and direct enquiries?
- Pack up?

If you are able to spare any time, please contact Tara Watson as soon as possible on: [tarawatson@aapt.net.au](mailto:tarawatson@aapt.net.au). She will respond with more information on the event and how you can help.

## Cadbury goes traffik free...

If you have time, send an email congratulating Cadbury. It's always great to encourage such amazing breakthroughs.

Cadbury have announced that **Cadbury's Dairy Milk** - their best known product, is to receive Fairtrade certification by late summer 2009.

**STOP THE TRAFFIK** congratulates Cadbury on this ground breaking decision, which comes two years into the STOP THE TRAFFIK Chocolate Campaign.

STOP THE TRAFFIK CEO, Ruth Dearnley, said: "***Cadbury's decision demonstrates the power of ordinary consumers to bring about change and freedom. Two years ago, when STOP THE TRAFFIK met with Cadbury we were told that the decision we have witnessed today was impossible and impracticable. This is a victory for every person who has complained, campaigned and spread the message. But most of all it is a victory***

***for every child held in exploitative labour on the cocoa farms of West Africa. However, let us not snatch defeat from the jaws of victory - they will not be set free until Mars and Nestle and Lindt and Hershey and all the others have the integrity to put human rights before profit and make similar announcements."***

It has long been known that thousands of children are being trafficked on to cocoa plantations in the **Ivory Coast** and across **West Africa** to harvest the cocoa that makes the chocolate that the world consumes. Despite the fact that industry committed in 2001 to remove all forms of exploitative child labour from the chocolate supply chain, little progress has been made.

STOP THE TRAFFIK, a global movement against people trafficking founded in 2006, has been calling for individual companies to take responsibility for the chocolate they sell and asking for it to be traffik free.

### DIAMOND VALLEY OXFAM

#### MEETINGS

8.00pm 3rd Friday of each month  
Living and Learning Nilumbik  
739 Main Rd Eltham, Melway Ref 21 J7

#### OFFICE BEARERS

Meeting Chairman - Stephen Lavender 9439 2063  
Meeting Organizers - Carole Wigg 9439 7272  
Marguerite Marshall 9439 3232  
or 0422 042 099  
Treasurer & Membership - Alister Rowe 9435 5958  
Publicity Officer & Webmaster - John Kent  
9434 6882  
Minutes Secretary - Elizabeth Stewart 9459 4429  
Book Fair Coordinator - Beth Pender 9439 1716  
Trade Winds Tea/Coffee - Val Byers